SMALL SCHOOL DISTRICT: BIG TRANSFORMATION

How the North Stonington Public School District maximized a limited budget to create a 21st century learning environment.

NOVEMBER 15, 2019

PROJECT STATISTICS
Grades: 7-12
Enrollment: 362 students
Project Type: Additions + Renovations
Project Cost: $21,300,000
Existing Size: 26,000 s.f.
Addition Size: 44,000 s.f.
Construction Duration: 14 months
State Reimbursement: 46.07%

CHALLENGES CONFRONTING SMALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS
Small high-achieving school districts with low or declining enrollment face unique challenges when updating their facilities and infrastructure, including:
+ Educating the community about the impact existing conditions have on teaching and learning
+ Selecting the right solutions for the district: new or additions + renovations
+ Understanding State reimbursement and space standards
+ Projecting project cost and tax impact
+ Garnering public support for successful referendums

STRATEGIES FOR PROJECT SUCCESS
+ Align stakeholders to gain consensus and enhance momentum
+ Orchestrate visioning workshops with faculty, parents, students, and administrators
+ Identify how energy, environment, security, and technology influence program needs
+ “Right-size” facilities to maximize space utilization
+ Partner with State officials early-on to identify opportunities
+ Visit other educational facilities and relevant projects for inspirations that satisfy K-12’s evolving needs

Wheeler Middle High School – North Stonington, CT